PROVISIONAL

E/1995/SR.57
3 August 1995

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Substantive session of 1995

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 57th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Friday, 28 July 1995, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan)

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CLOSURE OF THE SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF 1995 OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS (agenda item 7) (continued) (E/1995/L.39)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to continue its consideration of agenda item 7.

Draft resolution E/1995/L.39

Mr. KHOURY (Observer for the Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation was one of the principal parties in the peace process and was committed to continuing it seriously. An essential element of that process was full withdrawal to the borders that had existed on 4 June 1967, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

Operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution E/1995/L.39 lacked any mention of two basic principles on which the Peace Conference on the Middle East had been based. The first was the principle of land for peace. The second was that contained in one of the basic resolutions of the Security Council, namely resolution 425 (1978) which called on Israel to withdraw immediately and unconditionally from Lebanon.

Mr. OMEISH (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his delegation objected to the draft resolution on the Middle East peace process. It was a purely political matter that should be considered by the relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the General Assembly, the competent committees and the Security Council. The Charter of the United Nations had made clear the terms of reference and the political, social and economic responsibility of all those involved in such a clear manner that there should be no need for any kind of overlap.

The Council should not become involved in matters unrelated to its terms of reference. It had no time to deal with extraneous issues not within the ambit of its competence. Noting the reference in the draft resolution to the declarations signed in Casablanca and Washington, he said that not all the States in the region had been present. Therefore, how was it possible for the Council to welcome those declarations?

Mr. HASSAN (Sudan) said the peace process was of concern to the States parties in that process and his delegation therefore did not object to it. However, his delegation had serious reservations concerning the loopholes in the peace process which did not serve the purposes of peace in the region. Therefore, it would not participate in the voting that was to take place soon in the region.

The vote was taken by roll-call.

Germany, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Australia, Bahamas, Belarus, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Denmark, Egypt, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.

Against: Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Abstaining: Malaysia.

Draft resolution E/1995/L.39 was adopted by 47 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.

Mr. LAMDAN (Observer for Israel) expressed his delegation's satisfaction at the virtually unanimous vote in favour of the resolution on the Middle East peace process. The resolution did what the Council should be doing, namely putting its weight and that of the international community behind a successful - if as yet uncompleted - peace process. As noted in the preamble, the Middle East peace process already had considerable achievements to its credit.

As an example of the positive, he drew attention to the joint Israel-Jordan relief mission to Bosnia conducted at the beginning of the week at the initiative of King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin. Such a relief operation from Israel and Jordan together for Muslim refugees from Sevrenica and Jepa would have been totally inconceivable only a few months previously.

On the other hand, no one had any illusions about the difficulties still ahead. In that connection, he referred to the blowing up of a public bus in Tel Aviv a few days earlier by a suicide bomber, which had killed and wounded over 30 persons.

Agonizingly difficult as it was, his country would persevere and do its utmost to achieve a full and comprehensive peace with all the Middle East parties concerned. It hoped that States which had not yet done so would join

the multilateral, regional track of the process. As underlined in operative paragraphs 6 and 10 of the resolution, that track was designed to bring the parties closer, by dealing, inter alia, with social and economic issues of concern to all and to the Council.

PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATIONAL RESOURCES IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN AND OTHER ARAB TERRITORIES (agenda item 8) (continued) (E/1994/L.42)

Draft resolution E/1995/L.42

Mr. ELMOAFI (Egypt) said that in the eighth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution, the word "first" should be inserted in the second line between the word "the" and the word "agreement".

Mr. HASSAN (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his delegation objected to the eighth preambular paragraph, which referred to the peace process, for the same reason it had given when explaining its vote on resolution E/1995/L.39 regarding the peace process in the Middle East.

With respect to his delegation's position on draft resolution E/1995/L.42, except for the eighth preambular paragraph, it fully supported the draft and called for the full and unconditional withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories in southern Lebanon, the occupied Syrian Golan, the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel and the Palestine Arab territories, as well as for the exercise by the Palestinian Arab people of their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent State with Jerusalem as its capital.

Mr. KHOURY (Observer for the Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General relating to the grave economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory. Those establishments had no basis in law and were totally illegitimate. They were an obstacle to the establishment of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

The establishment of settlements in the occupied Syrian Golan had begun immediately after the Israeli occupation in 1967. It was to be noted that the last settlement had been established in August 1994 and that existing settlements were being expanded. That showed the lack of seriousness on the part of the Israelis who claimed that they were committed to the peace process.

His delegation expected the Council to reaffirm its previous positions because the settlements were illegal and violated the inalienable right of the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan to their natural resources and all their other economic resources.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to vote on the eighth preambular paragraph of draft resolution E/1995/L.42.

The vote was taken by roll-call.

Cuba, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Australia, Bahamas, Belarus, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Denmark, Egypt, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.

Against: Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Abstaining: None.

The eighth preambular paragraph of draft resolution E/1995/L.42 was adopted by 49 votes to 1.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to vote on draft resolution E/1995/L.42 as a whole.

The vote was taken by roll-call.

India, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Australia, Bahamas, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, Egypt, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Belarus, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Russian Federation, Ukraine.

Draft resolution E/1995/L.42 was adopted by 45 votes to 1, with 5 abstentions.

Mr. HOPE (United States of America) said that intemperate and unbalanced criticism of Israel in the Council was unhelpful to the search for a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, to which his Government was committed, as it also was to the achievement of legitimate Palestinian political rights. His country had taken the lead in organizing the Conference to Support Middle East Peace in Washington in 1993, at which more than 40 donors had pledged US$ 2.3 billion for the benefit of the Palestinians, and it continued to take the leading role in mobilizing support from other donors. It had itself pledged US$ 500 million over the past five years. In addition it was providing significant material aid, and had indeed done more to support the Palestinians through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency than any other country. It was the pressing duty of the Council to promote peace not to adopt inflammatory resolutions that had hindered that process in the past.

Mr. NEBENZYA (Russian Federation) said that his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution E/1995/L.39 and had abstained on draft resolution E/1995/L.42, not because it did not agree with the substance of the draft but because it considered such issues would be more appropriately discussed in other forums.

Mr. WALDEN (Observer for Israel) said that his delegation's position was well known. Israeli towns and villages, the so-called "settlements" had not been illegally constructed and were not an obstacle to development. The draft resolution reflected the thinking of those opposed to the peace process, which was proceeding through negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. Action by the Council should be on constructive lines, as in the adoption of draft resolution E/1995/L.39 and not be negative and obstructive.

The PRESIDENT announced that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 8.

COORDINATION OF THE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM RELATED TO: (agenda item 3) (continued)

(a) COORDINATED FOLLOW-UP BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ORGANIZED BY THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS (E/1995/L.58)

Draft agreed conclusions E/1995/L.58

Mr. NICULESCU (Romania), introducing the draft agreed conclusions on the sub-item (E/1995/L.58), said that the informal consultations leading to

agreement on the conclusions had been marked by a determined effort to narrow differences and to make the necessary compromises. They had been conducted in a constructive atmosphere in which mutual confidence had grown, and he hoped that the conclusions would represent a first step in a process which would grow in strength, and that they would make a positive input to the Agenda for Development.

The Council took note of the draft agreed conclusions (E/1995/L.58)

Mr. HOPE (United States of America) expressed appreciation of the skilled and patient chairmanship displayed by the Vice-President, which had resulted in agreement on the conclusions. They represented a major step forward in the Council's efforts to ensure coherent and coordinated follow-up to the major United Nations conferences. His delegation agreed with the suggestions in the conclusions and wished to reiterate that it would continue to make its best efforts to meet the suggested ODA target referred to in paragraph 20. His Government had never agreed to a specific ODA target, but it continued to be the largest donor in supporting development throughout the world.

The PRESIDENT announced that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 3.

SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS (agenda item 5) (continued)

(b) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE THIRD DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (E/1995/L.56)

(a) SPECIAL ECONOMIC, HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (E/1995/L.45 and L.62)

(g) CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (E/1995/L.47)

(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (E/1995/53)

Draft resolution E/1995/L.56

Mr. KA (Senegal), introducing draft resolution E/1995/L.56, drew attention to the fact that the draft resolution incorporated, in its operative paragraphs, Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/11. If, as he hoped, the draft was adopted without a vote, the Council would be endorsing the urgent appeal to all Governments, governmental and non-governmental organizations and private individuals to contribute to the Trust Fund for the

Programme of the Decade. The draft also endorsed the Commission's call for the establishment of a focal point within the Centre for Human Rights.

Mr. ELMOSFI (Egypt), Mr. CURBELO (Cuba), Mr. IRUMBA (Uganda), Mr. CONSTANTINO (Angola), and Mr. SUAREZ (Venezuela) said that they wished to be included in the list of sponsors of the draft resolution.

The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should waive rule 54 of its rules of procedure and take immediate action on the draft resolution.

It was so decided.

Draft resolution E/1995/L.56 was adopted.

Draft resolutions E/1995/L.45 and L.62

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft resolutions E/1995/L.45 and L.62 under agenda item 5, sub-item (a): Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations. He pointed out that draft resolution E/1995/L.62 had been submitted by Mr. Tejera-París on the basis of formal consultations held on draft resolution E/1995/L.45.

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Committee) drew attention to some textual corrections in the draft of E/1995/L.62: the word "system" should be added after the words "United Nations" in the first line of operative paragraph 2 (b); the phrase "as well as on the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/182" should be added after the word "issues" at the end of operative paragraph 2 (c); and the word "other" should be replaced by the word "observer" before the word "States" in the third line of operative paragraph 3.

Mr. CURBELO (Cuba) said that the draft did not fully reflect the views of all delegations, including his own. In particular, the role of the General Assembly, which was the most appropriate forum for the relevant discussions, had been hardly mentioned. The annex to the draft was quite unnecessary; governing bodies should be free to decide what issues they wished to consider. That was a matter which his delegation would raise at the forthcoming session of the General Assembly. Structural problems that had to be solved should not be neglected.

Draft resolution E/1995/L.62 was adopted.

The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that in the light of the adoption of draft resolution E/1995/L.62, draft resolution E/1995/L.45 would be withdrawn.

It was so decided.

Draft resolution E/1995/L.47

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) drew attention to some agreed changes in the document: the clause "which, according to the report, indicates a considerable movement towards the de jure and de facto abolition of capital punishment" should be deleted in operative paragraph 2. Operative paragraph 3 should be deleted and replaced by: "Requests the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to examine this report at its fifth session."

Mr. FERNANDEZ (Observer for Spain) said that the delegations of South Africa and Switzerland had joined the list of sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution E/1995/L.47, as orally amended, was adopted.

Draft resolution E/1995/L.53

Mr. ARIAS (Colombia) and Mr. OMEISH (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that their delegations wished to join the list of sponsors of the draft resolution.

Mr. HOPE (United States of America) requested a vote on the draft resolution.

At the request of the representative of Cuba, the vote was taken by roll-call.

Sudan, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Bahamas, Bhutan, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining: Australia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Draft resolution E/1995/L.53 was adopted by 31 votes to none, with 20 abstentions.

Mr. HOPE (United States of America) said that his country recognized the responsibilities throughout the world of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations in the economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related fields, as well as the particular challenges they faced in fulfilling those responsibilities in the non-self-governing territories. His delegation would, accordingly, have supported a resolution which recognized those simple facts although it was not obvious that the agencies and organizations involved needed guidance beyond what was provided by their respective mandates. However, the draft resolution unnecessarily and inappropriately linked the work of the agencies and organizations to the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The time for such a link had long since passed. His delegation had, therefore, abstained in the vote on the draft resolution and hoped that its sponsors would, in future, direct their energies to the Committee's primary function of promoting economic and social welfare, as prescribed in the Charter.

Mr. PANKIN (Russian Federation) said that, although his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution, he believed that it would contribute to the efficiency of the Council's work if such matters were dealt with in the General Assembly. If a similar resolution were introduced in the future his delegation might, for that reason, vote differently, although it would continue to support the substance of such drafts.

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS: (agenda item 6) (continued) (E/1995/L.27)

(d) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (E/1995/L.32 and L.59)

(e) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (continued) (E/1995/L.28 and L.61)

Draft resolution E/1995/L.27

Mr. GERVAIS (Côte d'Ivoire), informing the Council of the results of the informal consultations on the draft resolution, said a number of small amendments had been endorsed. In the final preambular paragraph, the words "and countries with economies in transition" should be inserted between "developing countries" and "remains great". In paragraph 3, the words "of civil society and" should be inserted before "of non-governmental organizations".

In paragraph 5, the word "targeted", before "guidelines", should be deleted. After the word "patterns", the words "taking into account the work undertaken in other intergovernmental fora" should be inserted. Finally, the phrase "such as public utilities and services, including financial services" should be deleted.

In response to a question from Mrs. MENENDEZ (Observer for Spain), he said he did not recall any amendment to paragraph 6 having been proposed. If such was the Council's wish, however, he would have no objection to inserting the phrase "through the Commission on Sustainable Development" after the word "Council".

In response to a question from Mr. MAQUIEIRA (Chile), he said that it had also been agreed that the word "possible" should be inserted before "extension" and that the word "the" should be replaced by "those", before "guidelines into other areas".

The PRESIDENT announced that the delegations of Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Germany, India, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, South Africa and the United Kingdom had joined the sponsors.

Draft resolution E/1995/L.27, as amended, was adopted.

Draft resolutions E/1995/L.32 and L.59

Draft resolution E/1995/L.59 was adopted.

The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that in the light of the adoption of draft resolution E/1995/L.59, draft resolution E/1995/L.32 would be withdrawn.

It was so decided.

Draft resolutions E/1995/L.28 and L.61

The PRESIDENT noted that draft resolution E/1995/L.61 had been submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1995/L.28. The programme budget implications of draft resolution E/1995/L.28, which were contained in document E/1995/L.49, did not apply to the Vice-President's text.

Draft resolution E/1995/L.61 was adopted.

The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that in the light of the adoption of draft resolution E/1995/L.61, draft resolution E/1995/L.28 would be withdrawn.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 6.

COORDINATION QUESTIONS (agenda item 9) (continued)

(b) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS (E/1995/L.57)

(c) MULTISECTORAL COLLABORATION ON TOBACCO OR HEALTH (E/1995/L.63)

(d) PREVENTIVE ACTION AND INTENSIFICATION OF THE STRUGGLE AGAINST MALARIA AND DIARRHOEAL DISEASES, IN PARTICULAR CHOLERA (E/1995/L.54)

Draft resolution E/1995/L.57

Mr. GERVAIS (Côte d'Ivoire) introducing the draft resolution, said it had raised such high hopes that over 55 countries had chosen to sponsor it. It was the outcome of months of patient work aimed at enabling the developing countries to have access to data relevant to their economic and social development efforts. It seemed that the time for adoption of a draft resolution on that matter was ripe: all of the geographical regions were represented among the sponsors. Only the members of the European Union opposed a portion of the draft resolution - paragraph 5. Though they had submitted an amendment to that paragraph, no agreement had been reached on it. The sponsors had therefore decided to submit the draft resolution in its original version.

The PRESIDENT announced that the delegations of Belarus, Sri Lanka and Sudan had joined the sponsors and that, in the list of sponsors that appeared in the document, the word "People's" should be inserted between "Democratic" and "Republic of Korea".

Mrs. MENENDEZ (Observer for Spain), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said the Union recognized the importance and relevance of the draft resolution and acknowledged the fact that the text had won a large number of sponsors. Most of its paragraphs were acceptable. Despite the negotiations held in good faith on paragraph 5 and on the European Union's amendment thereto, however, the text had not been modified. The amendment had been to replace the words "an ad hoc open-ended working group" with "a meeting" and to insert, between "appropriate recommendations" and "as soon as possible", the words "including giving favourable consideration to the convening of an ad hoc open-ended working group".

In answer to a question from the PRESIDENT, she stated that the European Union could not go along with a consensus in favour of the draft resolution.

At the request of the representative of Cuba, a vote was taken by roll-call on the amendment proposed by Spain on behalf of the European Union.

Belarus, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Against: Bahamas, Belarus, Bhutan, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining: Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Ukraine, United States of America.

The amendment proposed by Spain was rejected by 32 votes to 16, with 4 abstentions.

Mrs. MENENDEZ (Observer for Spain), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said the Union regretted that its amendment to paragraph 5 had not been supported by the Council. In order not to place additional obstacles in the way of consensus, however, it would not call for a vote on draft resolution L.57 as a whole and would not oppose its adoption.

Draft resolution E/1995/L.57 was adopted.

Ms. WONG (Australia) said her delegation found the procedure that had used for the Council's negotiations on the draft resolution to be regrettable and would have preferred discussions to have been organized by the President.

Draft resolution E/1995/L.63

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider draft resolution E/1995/L.63, prepared by Mr. Papadotes (Greece), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1995/L.52.

Mrs. MENENDEZ (Observer for Spain) said that an amendment agreed upon in respect of operative paragraph 2 did not appear in the text before the Council; the words "comply with" should be replaced by "implementing".

Draft resolution E/1995/L.63, as orally amended, was adopted.

The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no obligation he would take it that in the light of the adoption of draft resolution E/1995/L.63, draft resolution E/1995/L.52 would be withdrawn.

It was so decided.

Mr. de ICAZA (Mexico) said that his delegation had supported the text just adopted with a view to consensus. But he regarded discussion of such an issue as a waste of the Council's time.

Mr. CURBELO (Cuba) agreed with the previous speaker.

Draft resolution E/1995/L.54

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to resume consideration of draft resolution E/1995/L.54, which had been the subject of informal consultations.

Mr. GERVAIS (Côte d'Ivoire), said that, as a result of informal consultations, it had been agreed to replace the text of operative paragraph 7 by the words:

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1998, the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization on the implementation of the strategies and work plans presented to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995, to be prepared in collaboration with other relevant organizations, agencies, organs and programmes of the United Nations system."

Draft resolution E/1995/L.54, as orally amended, was adopted.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 9.

PROGRAMME AND RELATED QUESTIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS (agenda item 12) (continued) (E/1995/L.55)

Draft resolution E/1995/L.55

Mr. BENTALL (United Kingdom) said that, as a result of negotiations, it had been decided to request the Council to take up the substance of draft resolution E/1995/L.55 at its resumed substantive session.

Mr. NAITO (Japan) said that, in a desire to achieve consensus, the sponsors had agreed to postpone consideration of the draft resolution, on the understanding that it would be brought before the Council without fail at its resumed substantive session.

Mr. IRUMBA (Uganda) said that his delegation was disappointed at having to postpone consideration of the text but hoped that the Council could take action on it in time to bring the matter to the attention of the General Assembly, at its fiftieth session, as requested by the Committee for Programme and Coordination in its report (A/50/16, para. 150).

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (agenda item 1) (continued)

The PRESIDENT, referring to the 1995 meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests of the Commission on Sustainable Development, invited the Council to take the following oral decision:

"The Economic and Social Council, recalling its decision 1995/226 in which, upon recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development, it approved the establishment of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, decides that the 1995 meeting of the Panel on Forests shall take place at Headquarters from 11-15 September 1995."

If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt that oral decision.

It was so decided.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (agenda item 4) (continued) (E/1995/L.26, L.30, L.31, L.65 and L.66)

Draft resolutions E/1995/L.26, L.30, L.31, L.65 and L.66

Mr. GERVAIS (Côte d'Ivoire), introducing draft proposals E/1995/L.65 and E/1995/L.66, drew attention to further amendments to the texts.

Referring to draft resolution E/1995/L.65, he said that, in the third line of the fourth preambular paragraph, the word "predictable" should be followed by a comma. With regard to draft resolution E/1995/L.66, the second preambular paragraph had to be amended so as to replace "United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and the Development 1986-1990" by "United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s".

Draft resolutions E/1995/L.65 and E/1995/L.66, as amended, were adopted.

The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that in the light of the adoption of those two texts, draft resolutions E/1995/L.26, L.30 and L.31 would be withdrawn.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 4.

SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS (agenda item 5) (continued)

(f) SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS (E/1995/L.44 and L.64)

(a) SPECIAL ECONOMIC, HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (E/1995/53)

(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (A/50/286-E/1995/113)

(d) HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (E/1995/112, E/1995/22 and Corr.1, E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2)

(e) ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (A/50/38, A/50/257-E/1995/61)

(f) SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS (A/50/84-E/1995/12, A/50/181-E/1995/65)

(g) CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (A/CONF.169/16)

(i) UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (E/1995/52)

Draft resolution E/1995/L.44 and L.64

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) said that draft resolution E/1995/L.64 would replace the text of draft resolution E/1995/L.44 as a result of informal consultations. She drew attention to a number of further amendments. In the fourth preambular paragraph, the words "to the General Assembly" were to be added at the end; in operative paragraph 1, the word "note" was to be replaced by "report"; in operative paragraph 5, the word "Commissions" should have an apostrophe; and at the end of operative paragraph 9, the words "United Nations" should be followed by "system".

The Council's attention was also drawn to the programme budget implications, contained in A/1995/L.60, the text of which could now be completed and amended. Operative paragraph 2 was to be deleted entirely. In operative paragraph 5, the first two sentences were to be deleted, and, in the resultant first sentence, the figure of US$ 94,400 was amended to US$ 57,000. In operative paragraph 6, the total amount to be shown was US$ 423,900. The

itemized figures were as follows: meeting services, US$ 97,400; pre-session documentation, US$ 127,600; in-session documentation, US$ 117,100; post-session documentation, US$ 81,800.

The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council adopted draft resolution E/1995/L.64, in place of draft resolution E/1995/L.44, taking note of the programme budget implications contained in document E/1995/L.60 with the oral amendments and additions read out by the Secretariat.

Draft resolution E/1995/L.64, as orally amended, was adopted.

Document E/1995/53

The Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon (E/1995/53), the oral report by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs on assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia and the oral report by the representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa.

Document A/50/286-E/1995/113

The Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people (A/50/286-E/1995/113).

Documents E/1995/112, E/1995/22 and Corr.1, E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2

The Council took note of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/1995/112). The report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its tenth and eleventh sessions (E/1995/22 and Corr.1) and the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its fifty-first session (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2).

Documents A/50/38, A/50/257-E/1995/61

The Council took note of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women on its fourteenth session (A/50/38) and the report of the Secretary-General on improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (A/50/257-E/1995/61).

Documents A/50/84-E/1995/12, A/50/181-E/1995/65

The Council took note of the interim report of the Secretary-General on the world social situation (A/50/84-E/1995/12) and the report of the Secretary-General and of the Director-General of UNESCO on the quest to achieve a literate world (A/50/181-E/1995/65).

Document A/CONF.169/16

The Council took note of the report of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (A/CONF.169/16).

Document E/1995/52

The Council took note of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/1995/52).

The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 5.

CLOSURE OF THE SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF 1995 OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The PRESIDENT said that there had been significant achievements during the current year, both on substantive issues and in the area of the Council's working methods. The Council had succeeded in focusing attention on the critical situation in Africa, the high-level segment having generated new ideas on ways to promote African development, including innovative concepts of interregional cooperation. It had also reached agreement on ways to enhance coordinated follow-up to the outcome of major international conferences. The agreement to have periodic meetings would enable it to exercise greater control over the complex United Nations development machinery. The Council members had exhibited great wisdom in preparing the ground for a successful Fourth World Conference on Women; as a result of its decision, an unprecedented number of NGOs would be attending. A number of other matters in which decisions were likely to yield fruitful results included the strengthening of the Population Commission and the setting up of a working group on informatics. The Council had also taken several significant steps to improve its working methods; early selection of a theme for the coordination segment would facilitate better preparation, timely availability of documents and a higher level of debate.

Other innovations included the involvement of other development actors in the Council's proceedings, the holding of brainstorming sessions with ministers, and the ensuring that all heads of the key multilateral financial and the trade institutions attended the policy dialogue. Such innovations, if continued, would lead to better decision-taking at future sessions.

The Council was still far from its goal of being the prime United Nations organ for policy recommendation and coordination on socio-economic matters. The relevance of much of its work was in doubt; its recommendations generally had little impact on pressing socio-economic issues. Many people even

questioned the rationale for the Council's existence - an attitude which could not be shrugged off but must be responded to, by working for a Council whose recommendations were heard with care and invariably led to concrete action. For that purpose, in his view, some basic assumptions needed to be questioned, and working methods further improved.

One major stumbling-block, as he saw it, was that the Council was repeatedly divided into two rigid camps. On the one hand, there was a constant effort to dilute hard-core economic matters in social questions; issues such as financial flows, trade restrictions and access to technology were seldom tackled head on. There was also an insistence on form over substance, and a near obsession with organization restructuring. Increased effectiveness was often sought through managerial fixes rather than fulfilment of substantive commitments, many of which were outstanding.

The other outlook was equally counter-productive: there was a reluctance to put forward innovative ideas on contentious issues. Change was looked upon with suspicion, even though it might be beneficial. Standing still was equated with moving forward. As a result, not much headway was made on issues that really needed to be addressed. Instead, the Council made anodyne decisions and recommendations acceptable to all and of value to none. If the Council was serious about its work, then new attitudes had to emerge - otherwise, the Council was doomed to irrelevance.

The Council's working methods, too, required change. Such change must not be confused with restructuring: much could be done within the existing structure to improve the Council's functioning. The current session showed the need to consider changes in the general and high-level segments. The debate in the general segment had at times lacked focus, but that could be rectified by a number of simple measures. Items that had already been considered by subsidiary bodies could be combined in one group. Within clusters of items, statements could be heard on individual items in turn, rather than on the entire cluster. Executive summaries of reports could be drafted, mentioning the recommendations or decisions on which the Council was to take action.

The potential of the high-level segment was not being realized. The number of ministers participating was not as great as it should be. To ensure greater participation as well as more substantial results, there should be a topical theme, adequate time for interaction between the participants and

worthwhile dialogue partners for the ministers. The theme of the high-level segment should not be narrowly focused but must have global significance and contemporary relevance. Enough time must be made available for informal consultations among participants. At present, ministers delivered formal statements and departed - hardly an optimal use of their presence. At the current session, an attempt had been made to have the ministers exchange views informally on the theme for the high-level topic and on the revitalization of the Council. Valuable ideas had emerged from that exchange, yet the time had proved too short to crystallize them into actionable recommendations. In future, a full day should be put aside for the ministers to consult among themselves on macroeconomic and social issues and on the Council's role in addressing those issues.

Finally, Council members should build on the initiative taken in 1995 in order to involve other developmental actors in the deliberations. Heads of non-governmental organizations and chief executive officers of major private sector enterprises should be invited to participate in a wide-ranging discussion on the state of global development. The convergence of the major actors in the financial and development fields would inevitably open up fresh avenues for action. In addition, such a gathering would enable those individuals to develop contacts and explore possibilities for development cooperation.

He intended to continue considering those and other ideas in open-ended meetings of the Bureau and in the resumed session of the Council. He wished to express deep appreciation for the excellent work done by the secretariat, which had contributed immeasurably to what had been achieved during the current session. He also wished to extend thanks to the vice-presidents, who had worked selflessly to ensure a successful outcome.

The meeting rose at 1.35 p.m.